Application No.: 10/826,530
Docket No.: HT4020USNA

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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of subject claims 1-14 are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102/103

Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over US Patent Application Publication 2002/0142689 to Levit (Levit) or US 5948543 to Ootuka et al (Ootuka) or US 5833807 to Ramachandran et al. (Ramachandran) or US 6566288 to Kurumatani et al (Kurumatani).

The Examiner maintains that all of the references teach an aramid paper comprising a p-aramid pulp in amounts falling within the claimed ranges. The Examiner maintains that all of the patent references teach that floc is an m-aramid fiber /floc and use the same types of fiber/floc and as such the initial modulus limitation is met or would have been obvious. The Examiner further maintains that all of the patents/publication teach the use of a binder and that such binders can be in the form of fibrids.

Applicants traverse the rejections for as to anticipation and as to obviousness. None of the references individually teach every limitation of the claims. No combination of the references discloses or suggests every limitation of the subject claims.

Levit discloses at least 25% of p-aramid floc in the composition, which is entirely different from the subject claims in which there is no p-aramid floc. Ootuka dsilaoes para-aramid fiber in the form of chopped fiber (which would eb floc) only. No p-aramid pulp is disclosed and clearly there is no suggestion of coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE). Ramachandran does not disclose any specific ratio between components of different structure (p-aramid pulp and low modulus floc and does not disclose CTE of the paper. Also, in our case, the floc with modulus below 3000 cN/tex is not necessarily m-aramid (even m-aramid is one possible case). Kurumatani only discloses a

composition of chopped PPDT (KEVLAR(R)) fiberand Technora ® fiber, that is both constituents are floc. There is no p-aramid pulp and no fiber/floc with modulus less than 3000 cN/tex

Respectfully submitted,

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